

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /115 W

----- 049877

P R 081600Z JUL 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0448

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSE Z PINS IZ

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF ABORTIVE COUP

REF: BAGHDAD 0380 AND 0383

1. SUMMARY: FIRST EXECUTIONS OCCURED JULY 7 AND MORE EXPECTED.  
NO FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT APPARENT. RUMORED ARRESTS OF HIGH PARTY  
OFFICIALS AND BEHAVIOR OF REGIME SUGGEST BITTER INTRA-BAATH  
GANG WARFARE TAKING PLACE WITH LITTLE IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION;  
WINNERS LIKELY TO INHERIT WEAKENED REGIME. ARMY ROLE STILL AN  
UNKNOWN. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, DG OF SECURITY NAZEM  
KZAR AND 22 LESSER SECURITY OFFICIALS EXECUTED AT NOON JULY 7  
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AFTER BEING TRIED IN SECRET BY SPECIAL COURT. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID

THIS WAS ONLY "FIRST BATCH." LATE JULY 8 RADIO ANNOUNCED  
13 MORE SECURITY OFFICIALS EXECUTED.

3. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT ARRESTS HAVE INCLUDED  
HIGH BAATH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ABDUL KHALEQ AL-SAMMARRAI AND  
MOHAMMAD FADHEZU BOTH MEMBERS OF REGIONAL COMMAND; PRESIDENT

OF TRADE UNION MOHAMMAD AYESH; AND SEVERAL LEADERS OF UNION OF  
IRAQI STUDENTS. MININFO HAMID AL-JEBBOURI REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN  
KILLED ON JULY 5. RADIO REPORTS SAMMARRAI SENTENCED JULY 8 TO  
LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

4. MOST OBSERVERS STILL PUZZLED OVER MEN AND MOTIVES INVOLVED.  
ONLY TWO ELEMENTS SEEM CLEAR: (A) NO FOREIGN POWER ALLEGED TO  
BE INVOLVED NOR IS THERE EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT.  
THERE IS HOWEVER INDICATION THAT SOVIETS MAY WISH TO EXPLOIT NEW  
SITUATION BY INTER ALIA OBTAINING GREATER ROLE FOR ICP IN  
RETURN FOR RENEWAL OF SUPPORT. (BAGHDAD 0389). (B) POPULATION  
SEEMS UNINVOLVED. NEITHER SIDE HAS APPEALED TO THE "STREET"  
AND BAGHDAD HAS BEEN NORMAL THROUGHOUT CRISIS WITH EXCEPTION OF  
OCCASIONAL SIGHT OF ARMED MEN SURROUNDING A HOUSE AT NIGHT WITH  
GUNS AT READY. ATTITUDE OF AVERAGE IRAQI APPEARS TO BE THAT ONE  
FACTION OF BAATH NO BETTER THAN ANOTHER SO HE HAS NO STAKE IN  
OUTCOME.

5. BEYOND THESE TWO GENERALIZATIONS, ALL ELSE IS SPECULATION.  
PRESIDENT BAKR CONTINUES TO APPEAR AS FIGUREHEAD BUT SOME, SUCH  
AS TURKISH AMBASSADOR, BELIEVE HE IS STILL FORCE TO RECKON WITH.  
MININTERIOR GHAI DAN REPORTED TO BE PARTLY PARALYZED AND GOING  
ABROAD FOR REST AND TREATMENT. SADDAM HUSSEIN IS ONLY LEADER WHO  
CONTINUES TO APPEAR ALMOST DAILY IN PUBLIC.  
HE HAS CLAIMED NO MILITARY INVOLVED, BUT REAL ROLE OF ARMY  
REMAIN UNKNOWN. ARMY CAN HARDLY BE PLEASED THAT NET RESULT THUS

FAR IS EFFECTIVE REMOVAL OF TWO OF THREE GENERALS FROM RCC.

6. HYPOTHESIS THAT SEEMS MOST VALID AT THIS TIME IS THAT RIVALS  
OF SADDAM HUSSEIN ACTED BECAUSE THEY FEARED HIS GROWING POWER.  
DIFFERENCES, SUCH AS THOSE OVER KURDS, SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN,  
AND PRAGMATIC POLICY TOWARD WEST, PERHAPS USED AGAINST HIM, BUT  
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REAL MOTIVE MORE LIKELY WAS NAKED BID FOR POWER. SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS  
ALERTED AND MOVED RUTHLESSLY WITH PARTY MILITIA TO CRUSH IT.  
TWO GENERALS PROBABLY CAUGHT IN MIDDLE. NAZEM KZAR AND OTHERS  
NO DOUBT TORTURED TO IMPLICATE OTHERS AND FURTHER PURGE OF PARTY  
SEEMS LIKELY. IF ARMY REMAINS ON SIDELINES, THERE APPEARS BE  
GOOD CHANCE SADDAM CAN CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION. OVER LONG RUN,  
HOWEVER, REGIME IS WEAKENED. MANY NEW ENEMIES WILL BE WAITING FOR  
REVENGE AND, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, COUP HAS DEALT BLOW TO

BAATH BY DEMONSTRATING THAT AFTER FIVE YEARS IN POWER, BAATH HAS CREATED NO VIABLE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THAT IT IS JUST ANOTHER POLICE STATE WITH SAME INHERENT WEAKNESSES AND INSTABILITY OF OTHER SUCH STATES.

7. IF PRESS MAKES QUERIES ON EXECUTIONS, I RECOMMEND DEPT REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON GROUNDS IT PURELY INTERNAL MATTER. NO REFERENCE SHOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE MADE TO USINT REPORTING. LOWRIE

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